

JOHN M. ASHBROOK  
17TH DISTRICT  
OHIO

Approved For Release 2003/05/06 : CIA-RDP75B00380R000600200030-5

Alc 74-1446  
COMMITTEES:  
EDUCATION AND LABOR  
INTERNAL SECURITY

206 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Executive Registry
74-2041

June 25, 1974

Director William E. Colby  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Colby:

On May 30, in the debate on HR 12471, Senator John Stennis expressed his concern that the bill would have serious effects upon the Central Intelligence Agency and other national security agencies.

I would appreciate receiving your views on the effects of HR 12471 upon your Agency since the bill will again be acted upon by the House.

Your assistance is much appreciated.

Sincerely,



John M. Ashbrook  
Representative to Congress  
17th District

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	UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET
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# EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

## Routing Slip

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
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11	OLC	✓			
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Remarks: Response for DCI signature  
pls.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL  
FILE COPY

93d CONGRESS  
2d SESSION

# H. R. 12471

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19, 1974

Received

MAY 30, 1974

Considered, amended, read the third time, and passed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

## AN ACT

To amend section 552 of title 5, United States Code, known as  
the Freedom of Information Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 Section 1. ~~(a)~~ The fourth sentence of section 552 ~~(a)~~  
4 ~~(2)~~ of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking  
5 out "and make available for public inspection by copying"  
6 and inserting in lieu thereof " promptly publish, and dis-  
7 tribute ~~(by sale or otherwise)~~ copies of".

8 ~~(b)~~ Section 552 ~~(a)~~ ~~(3)~~ of title 5, United States Code,  
9 is amended by striking out "on request for identifiable records  
10 made in accordance with published rules stating the time,  
11 place, fees to the extent authorized by statute, and proce-

1   dure to be followed," and inserting in lieu thereof the  
2   following: "upon any request for records which (A) rea-  
3   sonably describes such records, and (B) is made in accord-  
4   ance with published rules stating the time, place, fees to  
5   the extent authorized by statute, and procedure to be  
6   followed,".

7       ~~(e)~~ Section 552(a) of title 5, United States Code, is  
8   amended by adding at the end thereof the following new  
9   paragraph:

10       ~~"(5)~~ Each agency, upon receipt of any request for  
11   records made under this subsection, shall—

12       ~~"(A)~~ determine within ten days (excepting Sat-  
13   urdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) after the  
14   date of such receipt whether to comply with the request  
15   and shall immediately notify the person making the  
16   request of such determination and the reasons therefor,  
17   and of the right of such person to appeal to the head of  
18   the agency any adverse determination; and

19       ~~"(B)~~ make a determination with respect to such  
20   appeal within twenty days (excepting Saturdays, Sun-  
21   days, and legal public holidays) after the date of receipt  
22   of such appeal.

23       ~~"Any~~ person making a request to an agency for records  
24   under this subsection shall be deemed to have exhausted his  
25   administrative remedies with respect to such request if the

1 agency fails to comply with subparagraph ~~(A)~~ or ~~(B)~~ of  
2 this paragraph. Upon any determination by an agency to  
3 comply with a request for records, the records shall be made  
4 promptly available to the person making such request."

5 ~~(d)~~ The third sentence of section 552(a)(3) of title 5,  
6 United States Code, is amended by inserting immediately  
7 after "the court shall determine the matter de novo" the  
8 following: "; and may examine the contents of any agency  
9 records in camera to determine whether such records or any  
10 part thereof shall be withheld under any of the exemptions  
11 set forth in subsection ~~(b)~~,".

12 ~~(e)~~ Section 552(a)(3) of title 5, United States Code,  
13 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new  
14 sentence: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
15 United States or the officer or agency thereof against whom  
16 the complaint was filed shall serve a responsive pleading to  
17 any complaint made under this paragraph within twenty  
18 days after the service upon the United States attorney of the  
19 pleading in which such complaint is made, unless the court  
20 otherwise directs for good cause shown. The court may  
21 assess against the United States reasonable attorney fees and  
22 other litigation costs reasonably incurred in any case under  
23 this section in which the United States or an officer or  
24 agency thereof, as litigant, has not prevailed."

1        ~~Sect. 2.~~ Section 552(b)(1) of title 5, United States  
2 Code, is amended to read as follows:

3            ~~“(1) authorized under criteria established by an~~  
4        Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of the  
5        national defense or foreign policy;”.

6        ~~Sect. 3.~~ Section 552 of title 5, United States Code, is  
7 amended by adding at the end thereof the following new  
8 subsections:

9            ~~“(d)~~ On or before March 1 of each calendar year, each  
10 agency shall submit a report covering the preceding calendar  
11 year to the Speaker of the House and the President of the  
12 Senate for referral to the appropriate committees of the Con-  
13 gress. Th report shall include—

14            ~~“(1)~~ the number of determinations made by such  
15 agency not to comply with requests for records made  
16 to such agency under subsection (a) and the reasons  
17 for each such determination;

18            ~~“(2)~~ the number of appeals made by persons under  
19 subsection (a)(5)(B), the result of such appeals, and  
20 the reason for the action upon each appeal that results  
21 in a denial of information;

22            ~~“(3)~~ a copy of every rule made by such agency  
23 regarding this section;

24            ~~“(4)~~ a copy of the fee schedule and the total

1 amount of fees collected by the agency for making  
2 records available under this section; and

3 ~~“(5) such other information as indicates efforts to~~  
4 ~~administer fully this section.~~

5 ~~“(e) Notwithstanding section 551(1) of this title, for~~  
6 ~~purposes of this section, the term ‘agency’ means any execu-~~  
7 ~~tive department, military department, Government corpora-~~  
8 ~~tion, Government controlled corporation, or other establish-~~  
9 ~~ment in the executive branch of the Government (including~~  
10 ~~the Executive Office of the President), or any independent~~  
11 ~~regulatory agency.”~~

12 ~~SEC. 4: The amendments made by this Act shall take~~  
13 ~~effect on the ninetieth day beginning after enactment of~~  
14 ~~this Act.~~

15 *That (a) the fourth sentence of section 552(a)(2) of title*  
16 *5, United States Code, is deleted and the following substi-*  
17 *tuted in lieu thereof: “Each agency shall maintain and make*  
18 *available for public inspection and copying current indexes*  
19 *providing identifying information for the public as to any*  
20 *matter issued, adopted, or promulgated after July 4, 1967,*  
21 *and required by this paragraph to be made available or pub-*  
22 *lished. Each agency shall publish, quarterly or more fre-*  
23 *quently, each index unless it determines by order published*  
24 *in the Federal Register that the publication would be unneces-*

1 sary and impracticable, in which case the agency shall none-  
2 theless provide copies of such index on request at a cost  
3 comparable to that charged had the index been published.”

4 (b)(1) Section 552(a)(3) of title 5, United States  
5 Code, is amended to read as follows:

6 “(3) Except with respect to the records made avail-  
7 able under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, each  
8 agency, upon any request for records which reasonably de-  
9 scribes such records and which is made in accordance with  
10 published rules stating the time, place, fees, and procedures  
11 to be followed, shall make the records promptly available  
12 to any person. When such records are made available under  
13 this section in matters which the person seeking those records  
14 can demonstrate to be of general public concern, the agency  
15 complying with the request for the records shall make them  
16 available for public inspection and purchase in accordance  
17 with the provisions of this Act, unless the agency can de-  
18 monstrate that such records could subsequently be denied to  
19 another individual under the exceptions provided for in sub-  
20 section (b) of this Act.”.

21 (2) Section 552(a) of such title 5 is amended by redes-  
22 ignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5) and by inserting  
23 immediately after paragraph (3) the following new para-  
24 graph:

25 “(4)(A) In order to carry out the provisions of this

1 section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget  
2 shall promulgate regulations, pursuant to notice and receipt  
3 of public comment, specifying a uniform schedule of fees ap-  
4 plicable to all agencies. Such fees shall be limited to reason-  
5 able standard charges for document search and duplication  
6 and provide recovery of only the direct costs of such search  
7 and duplication. Documents may be furnished without charge  
8 or at a reduced charge where the agency determines that  
9 waiver or reduction of the fee is in the public interest because  
10 furnishing the information can be considered as primarily  
11 benefiting the general public. But such fees shall ordinarily  
12 not be charged whenever—

13 “(i) the person requesting the records is an indigent  
14 individual;

15 “(ii) such fees would amount, in the aggregate, for  
16 a request or series of related requests, to less than \$3;

17 “(iii) the records requested are not found; or

18 “(iv) the records located are determined by the  
19 agency to be exempt from disclosure under subsection  
20 (b).

21 “(B) On complaint, the district court of the United  
22 States in the district in which the complainant resides, or  
23 has his principal place of business, or in which the agency  
24 records are situated, or in the District of Columbia, has  
25 jurisdiction to enjoin the agency from withholding agency

1 records and to order the production of any agency records  
2 improperly withheld from the complainant. In such a case  
3 the court shall consider the case *de novo*, with such *in camera*  
4 examination of the requested records as it find appropriate  
5 to determine whether such records or any part thereof may  
6 be withheld under any of the exemptions set forth in subsec-  
7 tion (b) of this section, and the burden is on the agency to  
8 sustain its action.

9       “(C) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
10 defendant shall serve an answer or otherwise plead to any  
11 complaint made under this subsection within forty days  
12 after the service upon the United States attorney of the  
13 pleading in which such complaint is made, unless the court  
14 otherwise directs for good cause shown.

15       “(D) Except as to causes the court considers of greater  
16 importance, proceedings before the district court, as author-  
17 ized by this subsection, and appeals therefrom, take prece-  
18 dence on the docket over all causes and shall be assigned for  
19 hearing and trial or for argument at the earliest practicable  
20 date and expedited in every way.

21       “(E) The court may assess against the United States  
22 reasonable attorney fees and other litigation costs reasonably  
23 incurred in any case under this section in which the com-  
24 plainant has substantially prevailed. In exercising its discre-  
25 tion under this paragraph, the court shall consider the benefit

(g)

to the public, if any, deriving from the case, the commercial benefit to the complainant and the nature of his interest in the records sought, and whether the Government's withholding of the records sought had a reasonable basis in law.

(F) Whenever records are ordered by the court to be made available under this section, the court shall on motion by the complainant find whether the withholding of such records was without reasonable basis in law and which Federal officer or employee was responsible for the withholding. Before such findings are made, any officers or employees named in the complainant's motion shall be personally served a copy of such motion and shall have 20 days in which to respond thereto, and shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard by the court. If such findings are made, the court shall, upon consideration of the recommendation of the agency, direct that an appropriate official of the agency which employs such responsible officer or employee suspend such officer or employee without pay for a period of not more than 60 days or take other appropriate disciplinary or corrective action against him.

(G) In the event of noncompliance with the order of the court, the district court may punish for contempt the responsible employee, and in the case of a uniformed service, the responsible member.

H.R. 12471-2

1       (3) Section 552(b)(7) is amended to read as follows:

2       “Investigatory records compiled for law enforcement pur-  
3       poses, but only to the extent that the production of such  
4       records would (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings,  
5       (B) deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial  
6       adjudication or constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of  
7       personal privacy, (C) disclose the identity of an informer,  
8       or (D) disclose investigative techniques and procedures.”.

9       (c) Section 552(a) of title 5, United States Code, is  
10       amended by adding at the end thereof the following new  
11       paragraph:

12       “(6)(A) Each agency, upon any request for records  
13       made under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection,  
14       shall—

15               “(i) determine within ten days (excepting Satur-  
16       days, Sunday, and legal public holidays) after the  
17       receipt of any such request whether to comply with such  
18       request and shall immediately notify the person making  
19       such request of such determination and the reasons there-  
20       for, and of the right of such person to appeal to the head  
21       of the agency any adverse determination; and

22               “(ii) make a determination with respect to such  
23       appeal within twenty days (excepting Saturdays, Sun-  
24       days, and legal public holidays) after the receipt of such  
25       appeal. If on appeal the denial of the request for records

1       is in whole or part upheld, the agency shall notify the  
2       person making such request of the provisions for judicial  
3       review of that determination under paragraph (4) of  
4       this subsection.

5       “(B) Upon the written certification by the head of an  
6       agency setting forth in detail his personal findings that a  
7       regulation of the kind specified in this paragraph is necessi-  
8       tated by such factors as the volume of requests, the volume of  
9       records involved, and the dispersion and transfer of such  
10      records, and with the approval in writing of the Attorney  
11      General, the time limit prescribed in clause (i) for initial  
12      determinations may by regulation be extended with respect  
13      to specified types of records of specified components of such  
14      agency so as not to exceed thirty working days. Any such  
15      certification shall be effective only for periods of fifteen  
16      months following publication thereof in the Federal Register.

17      “(C) In unusual circumstances as specified in this sub-  
18      paragraph, the time limits prescribed in clauses (i) or (ii)  
19      of subparagraph (A), but not those prescribed pursuant to  
20      subparagraph (B), may be extended by written notice to the  
21      requester setting forth the reasons for such extension and the  
22      date on which a determination is expected to be dispatched. No  
23      such notice shall specify a date that would result in an exten-  
24      sion for more than ten working days. As used in this subpara-  
25      graph, ‘unusual circumstances’ means, but only to the extent

12

1 reasonably necessary to the proper processing of the partic-  
 2 ular request—

3 (i) the need to search for and collect the requested

4 records from field facilities or other establishments that  
 5 are separate from the office processing the request;

6 (ii) the need to assign professional or managerial  
 7 personnel with sufficient experience to assist in efforts to

8 locate records that have been requested in categorical  
 9 terms; or with sufficient competence and discretion to aid

10 in determining by examination of large numbers of rec-  
 11 ords whether they are exempt from compulsory disclosure

12 under this section and if so, whether they should never-  
 13 theless be made available as a matter of sound policy

14 with or without appropriate deletions;

15 (iii) the need for consultation, which shall be con-  
 16 ducted with all practicable speed, with another agency

17 having a substantial interest in the determination of the

18 request or among two or more components of the agency

19 having substantial subject-matter interest therein, in order

20 to resolve novel and difficult questions of law or policy;

21 and

22 (iv) the death, resignation, illness, or unavailability

23 due to exceptional circumstances that the agency could

24 not reasonably foresee and control, of key personnel

25 whose assistance is required in processing the request and

1 who would ordinarily be readily available for such  
2 duties.

3 “(D) Whenever practicable, requests and appeals shall  
4 be processed more rapidly than required by the time periods  
5 specified under (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) and para-  
6 graphs (B) and (C). Upon receipt of a request for specially  
7 expedited processing accompanied by a substantial showing  
8 of a public interest in a priority determination of the request,  
9 including but not limited, to requests made for use of any  
10 person engaged in the collection and dissemination of news,  
11 an agency may by regulation or otherwise provide for special  
12 procedures or the waiver of regular procedures.

13 “(E) An agency may by regulation transfer part of the  
14 number of days of the time limit prescribed in (A) (ii) to  
15 the time limit prescribed in (A) (i). In the event of such a  
16 transfer, the provisions of paragraph (C) shall apply to  
17 the time limits prescribed under such clauses as modified by  
18 such transfer. Any person making a request to any agency for  
19 records under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection  
20 shall be deemed to have exhausted his administrative remedies  
21 with respect to such request if the agency fails to comply  
22 with the applicable time limit provisions of this para-  
23 graph. If the Government can show exceptional circumstances  
24 exist and that the agency is exercising due diligence in re-  
25 sponding to the request, the court may retain jurisdiction

1 *and allow the agency additional time to complete its review of*  
2 *the records. Upon any determination by an agency to comply*  
3 *with a request for records, the records shall be made prompt-*  
4 *ly available to such person making such request. Any noti-*  
5 *fication of denial of any request for records under this sub-*  
6 *section shall set forth the names and titles or positions of*  
7 *each person responsible for the denial of such request.”.*

8 *SEC. 2. (a) Section 552(b) (1) of title 5, United States*  
9 *Code, is amended to read as follows:*

10 *“(1) specifically required by an Executive order*  
11 *or statute to be kept secret in the interest of national*  
12 *defense or foreign policy and are in fact covered by such*  
13 *order or statute;”.*

14 *(b) Section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, is*  
15 *amended by adding at the end the following “Any reason-*  
16 *ably segregable portion of a record shall be provided to any*  
17 *person requesting such record after deletion of the portions*  
18 *which are exempt under this subsection.”.*

19 *SEC. 3. Section 552 of title 5, United States Code, is*  
20 *amended by adding at the end thereof the following new*  
21 *subsections:*

22 *“(d) On or before March 1 of each calendar year, each*  
23 *agency shall submit a report covering the preceding calen-*  
24 *dar year to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate*

1 *and the Committee on Government Operations of the House*  
2 *of Representatives, which shall include—*

3       “(1) *the number of determinations made by such*  
4 *agency not to comply with requests for records made to*  
5 *such agency under subsection (a) and the reasons for*  
6 *each such determination;*

7       “(2) *the number of appeals made by persons under*  
8 *subsection (a)(6), the result of such appeals, and the*  
9 *reason for the action upon each appeal that results in a*  
10 *denial of information;*

11       “(3) *the names and titles or positions of each person*  
12 *responsible for the denial of records requested under this*  
13 *section, and the number of instances of participation*  
14 *for each;*

15       “(4) *a copy of every rule made by such agency*  
16 *regarding this section;*

17       “(5) *the total amount of fees collected by the*  
18 *agency for making records available under this section;*

19       “(6) *a copy of every certification promulgated by*  
20 *such agency under subsection (a)(6)(B) of this sec-*  
21 *tion; and*

22       “(7) *such other information as indicates efforts to*  
23 *administer fully this section.*

24 *The Attorney General shall submit an annual report on or*  
25 *before March 1 of each calendar year which shall include for*

1 the prior calendar year a listing of the number of cases  
2 arising under this section, the exemption involved in each  
3 case, the disposition of such case, and the cost, fees, and  
4 penalties assessed under subsections (a)(3) (E), (F) and  
5 (G). Such report shall also include a description of the  
6 efforts undertaken by the Department of Justice to encourage  
7 agency compliance with this section.

8 “(e) For purposes of this section, the term ‘agency’  
9 means any agency defined in section 551(1) of this title,  
10 and in addition includes the United States Postal Service,  
11 the Postal Rate Commission, and any other authority of  
12 the Government of the United States which is a corporation  
13 and which receives any appropriated funds.”.

14 SEC. 4. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated  
15 such sums as may be necessary to assist in carrying out the  
16 purposes of this Act and of section 552 of title 5, United  
17 States Code.

18 SEC. 5. The amendments made by this Act shall take  
19 effect on the ninetieth day beginning after the date of enact-  
20 ment of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives March 14, 1974.

Attest: W. PAT JENNINGS,  
Clerk.

Passed the Senate May 30, 1974.

Attest: FRANCIS R. VALEO,

93<sup>d</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>d</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 12471**

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**AN ACT**

To amend section 552 of title 5, United States  
Code, known as the Freedom of Information  
Act.

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MARCH 10, 1974

Received

MAY 30, 1974

Considered, amended, read the third time, and passed